

BRITISH·COLUMBIA'S

Planning for the Future



NEW DIRECTIONS IN
PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

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IN
PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

Pesticide Management Program
Five-Year Strategic Plan

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INTRODUCTION

In 1989, approximately \$22 million worth of pesticides were applied in British Columbia for agricultural, forestry, domestic and industrial purposes. B.C. Environment understands the need to regulate the use of those helpful yet potentially harmful substances — to protect human health and the environment.

As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental protection, the ministry plans to integrate nonchemical alternatives into its regulatory program. That integrated approach to pest management complements other ministry initiatives designed to achieve a sustainable environment.

The ministry also recognizes that today's public wants to participate in decisions affecting the environment. Concerns have been raised regarding the perceived lack of meaningful input into the decision-making process on pesticide use. The ministry must address those concerns through its Pesticide Management Program. That will not be easy, as decisions related to pesticide use involve complex private and public sector interests — often competing ones.

In addition, the ministry is committed to full public disclosure of the results of monitoring the environment associated with pesticide applications. Regular reports will be issued by the Administrator of the Pesticide Management Program. Recent monitoring of pesticide residues in foods indicate that 98 percent of all samples are in compliance with federal health regulations.



PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This strategic plan provides a framework within which to re-examine the Pesticide Management Program's current mandate, coordinate its activities and outline its direction over the next five years. The plan redefines the program's mission, principles and strategic objectives. It also proposes key activities to meet the program's strategic objectives.

The plan will explain to the people of British Columbia how the Pesticide Management Program intends to respond to the challenges of ensuring a sustainable environment. It will be important to other ministries as it will outline the program's overall mandate in a concise manner. The plan should also assist program staff in both central and regional offices by providing a policy context within which to undertake regional, operational and budgetary planning, set priorities, implement activities and evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Pesticide Management Program is to promote integrated pest management (IPM) strategies and regulate pesticide use to achieve a sustainable environment for British Columbia.

Mission Principles

Delivery of the program's mission is guided by four principles:

- Protection:** Protect environmental resources and human health.
- Education:** Provide information to the public about pest management strategies.
- Participation:** Involve the public in key decisions affecting pesticide management activities.
- Reduction:** Reduce hazardous and unnecessary pesticide use in the province.

Strategic Objectives

- 1. *Promote integrated pest management activities in British Columbia.***
- 2. *Regulate the sale and use of pesticides in British Columbia and monitor their effects on human health and the environment.***
- 3. *Inform the public about risks, opportunities for alternatives and regulatory decision-making processes associated with pesticide use in the province.***

The Strategic Objectives refine the Mission Statement of the Pesticide Management Program. They transform broad policy statements into three attainable and measurable objectives. Each objective is consistent with the program's principles and serves to identify program implications of the Mission Statement. The Strategic Objectives are discussed and their constituent activities identified in the following pages. Some of the activities are part of the program's ongoing regulatory efforts.

Related to those basic Strategic Objectives, several new initiatives are being proposed. The proposals include:

- A complete review of the *Pesticide Control Act* leading to new legislation within the next two years, including public consultation.
- Establishment of a Pesticide Management Advisory Committee to replace the existing Pesticide Control Committee — to advise the Minister of Environment on broad policy matters.

In addition, the ministry has regionalized its regulatory procedures, partly in response to the Ombudsman's Report of March 1988, *Pesticide Regulation in British Columbia*. By November 1, 1991, permits will be issued by regional offices. Regional Pesticide Control Committees have been established in each of the ministry's six administrative regions to review all pesticide permit applications.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE:

PROMOTE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Key Activities

- ✓ *Encourage and promote the reduction of pesticide use and pesticide-related impacts in the environment.*

The Pesticide Management Program will measure the current levels of pesticide use by types and quantities in 1991, and strive for a 25-percent reduction by the year 2001. That reduction will be based on eliminating the pesticide uses considered to be the most hazardous and the least necessary.

Increasingly, we will redirect individual pesticide users to innovative IPM strategies as a means of reducing the environmental loading of pesticides. That may be accomplished by providing economic incentives to use nonchemical alternatives.

- ✓ *Encourage and promote the use of alternatives and integrated pest management strategies including:*

- Biological agents.
- Low-risk, ecologically safe pesticides.
- Mechanical methods.
- Cultural methods.
- Physical methods.
- Increased monitoring.
- Risk/benefit analysis.

Alternatives will be selected where potential risks are less than, and economic benefits are greater than, those of pesticides. When alternatives are implemented, they will be assessed and monitored. Information about integrated pest management strategies will be developed in close consultation with other ministries and resource agencies.

- ✓ ***Coordinate pest management strategies with other government agencies and private sector organizations.***

The Pesticide Management Program will determine current IPM strategies within government and private sectors by 1992 and promote the technological exchange of ideas in the following years.

- ✓ ***Document existing integrated pest management activities in British Columbia.***

The program will develop a catalogue and a clearing house of all IPM activities in B.C. by 1993.

- ✓ ***Identify integrated pest management strategies used elsewhere which could be utilized in British Columbia.***

Over the next few years, we will seek innovative IPM strategies by conducting workshops and by doing an extensive literature search.

- ✓ ***Encourage and fund research into new integrated pest management methods.***

Each year we plan to fund researchers at least \$200,000 a year towards the development of useful IPM methods.

- ✓ ***Develop policy, legislative, procedural and regulatory initiatives to promote integrated pest management strategies such as Corporate Pest Management Plans.***

By 1993, we shall develop new policies and related initiatives on IPM strategies. One of those policies would be to encourage major users to incorporate IPM strategies instead of relying solely on pesticides.

- ✓ ***Ensure that training for pesticide applicators includes integrated pest management theory and practice.***

Over the next five years, we will be gradually introducing IPM methods into each category of our pesticide training courses.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:

REGULATE THE SALE AND USE OF PESTICIDES IN B.C. AND MONITOR THEIR EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Key Activities

- ✓ *As part of the overall review of B.C.'s environmental legislation, review the existing pesticide provisions and integrate them into the comprehensive environmental protection legislation prepared by the ministry.*

B.C. Environment is now conducting a legislative review of all environmental protection legislation, which will include a thorough review of the *Pesticide Control Act*. The new environmental legislation will incorporate the necessary provisions of the *Pesticide Control Act* and encourage the use of integrated pest management. Regulations will also be updated.

- ✓ *Increase efforts to review, monitor and enforce pesticide application on private property.*

About 100 farm sites will be inspected each year to ensure that farmers trained to use *restricted* products are in compliance with the *Pesticide Control Act*.

- ✓ *Evaluate the pesticide permit application process and identify ways to make it more responsible, efficient and participatory.*

The recommendations arising from the Ombudsman's Report, March 1988 (*Pesticide Regulation in British Columbia*) will be implemented by the end of 1991. The measures include public notification prior to permit issuance, revised appeal procedures and the development of criteria used in making decisions.

- ✓ *Ensure that the Pesticide Management Program is able to effectively review, monitor and enforce pesticide application on public lands.*

An audit of the regionalized permit system will be conducted in 1992, and a review of monitoring and enforcement activities will be completed in 1993.

- ✓ ***Develop training standards to ensure certified applicators and dispensers are adequately trained to protect human health and the environment.***
 Training standards for pesticide applicators have recently been completed in the forestry and agriculture categories. Additional training standards will be developed over the next few years, and a new aerial category will be completed by 1992.

- ✓ ***Ensure that companies which sell pesticides or apply pesticides as a service comply with safety, training and standards of certification requirements.***

- ✓ ***Ensure that conditions of pesticide vendor and pest control service licences are fulfilled, and that proper sales and use records are kept.***
 The program will continue to monitor the strict conditions allowing for the orderly sale and use of pesticides.

- ✓ ***Ensure that pesticide residue levels in food and natural waters are below regulated tolerance levels.***
 The monitoring of food and water for pesticide residues will be increased by approximately 15 percent per year, over the next few years.

- ✓ ***Coordinate the program's pesticide regulatory efforts with those of other governmental agencies and private organizations.***
 The program will continue to exchange regulatory ideas with progressive pesticide agencies in Canada and the United States.

- ✓ ***Ensure that pesticide residue levels do not harm the environment or human health.***
 Stringent regulatory restrictions will be applied to pesticides shown to have an adverse affect on the environment or human health.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE:

INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALTERNATIVES, AND REGULATORY DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH PESTICIDE USE IN THE PROVINCE

Key Activities

- ✓ *Develop a comprehensive communication plan to educate the public about the ministry's involvement in pest management.*

A communication plan was developed in 1991. It will be gradually modified in future years. Part of the plan includes the following ideas.

- ✓ *Conduct public workshops on pest management strategies.*

Once a number of pest management strategies for major pest problems have been developed, public explanation workshops will be conducted, starting in 1994.

- ✓ *Promote the availability of pesticide certification courses.*

- ✓ *Produce and distribute educational material about pest management strategies.*

- ✓ *Produce and distribute a newsletter to inform pesticide users and the public about current issues and developments in pest management.*

Over the next few years we will develop ways to inform various sectors of the public on the availability of our pesticide certification courses, current news about pesticides and pest management strategies, developments within the program, and general information on specific pest problems. That could be done by advertisements, brochures, newsletters and articles in local newspapers. It is intended that those initiatives begin in 1992.

- ✓ ***Promote timely public participation in decisions affecting pesticide permit applications.***

A recent amendment to the Regulations of the *Pesticide Control Act* provided the public an opportunity to comment on applications for pesticide permits before their issuance. That measure provides consultation involving the applicant, the public and the ministry to resolve concerns prior to a permit being issued.

- ✓ ***Ensure that the public receives adequate notice of proposed pesticide use on public lands and that pesticide use information is readily available.***

The Pesticide Management Program is currently developing a system for notifying the general public whenever pesticides are used on public land. That may become a model bylaw for use by various municipalities and regional districts, and will be completed by 1992.

PROPOSED PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose

- 1) To advise the Minister of Environment on policies, principles, regulations and guidelines regarding pesticides and integrated pest management in relation to environmental and human health concerns.
- 2) To assist the Administrator of the *Pesticide Control Act* in the maintenance of the pesticide permit process.

2. Membership

The committee will consist of one person/agency nominated by their respective agency and represented by:

- B.C. Environment
- Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services (WCB)
- Ministry of Health and Responsible for Seniors
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Ministry of Forests
- Environment Canada (also representing Fisheries & Oceans Canada)
- Agriculture Canada
- Public stakeholders representing industry and environmental groups

The committee will be chaired by the Administrator of the *Pesticide Control Act*.

3. Frequency of Meetings

The committee shall meet semi-annually, at the call of the chairman.

4. Functions

The committee shall make recommendations to the Minister of Environment related to the following issues:

- 1) Integrated pest management strategies
- 2) Results of monitoring pesticide residues in the environment and in food
- 3) Research and monitoring needs
- 4) Permit system
- 5) Certification
- 6) Licensing
- 7) Classification
- 8) Other general pesticide issues

5. Subcommittees

The Advisory Committee may appoint subcommittees as required to carry out its mandate.